

The Story of My Career

THE ALPINE PATH

By L. M. MONTGOMERY

Author of "Anne of Green Gables," "Anne of the Island," etc.

(CONCLUDING INSTALMENT)

"WE coached through the Trosachs to the Trosachs hotel. The Trosachs is beautiful and grand, and perhaps before the carriage road was made it was wild enough, especially for some benighted wanderer who had all too good reason to fear Highland plunderers. But it is far from being the wild, riven, precipitous dell of my fancy. No, it is not the Trosachs where I have so often wandered with Fitz-James. "The hotel is in a lovely spot," on the shore of Loch Achray.

"Where shall we find in foreign land—
So lone a lake, so sweet a strand?"

"Yet Loch Achray, too, was on a smaller scale than I had expected. We walked along it that night as far as the 'Brig of Turk,' gathering bell-heather and bluebells as we went. Scottish bluebells are certainly the sweetest things! They seem the very incarnation of old Scotia's romance.

A Foolish Disappointment

NEXT morning we walked through the Trosachs to Loch Katrine in a pouring rain and hired one of the boatmen to row us to and around 'Ellen's Isle.' I don't think I liked it because it, too, was not the islet of my dream, and I was conscious of a foolish disappointment.

"Benvenue, however, did not disappoint me. It dominates the landscape. Everywhere we went, there was old Benvenue, rugged and massive, with a cloud-wreath resting on his 'summit hoar.' I was very sorry that the night we spent there was wet. I should have loved to have seen a sunset effect on Benvenue."

August 6, 1912.

"Last Monday morning we went by train to Melrose and coached over six miles of most beautiful road to Abbotsford. Although we went on our own account we could not help falling in with a Cook excursion and this somewhat spoiled the day for us. But the scenery along the road is exquisite and we saw the Eildon Hills, cleft in three by the spells of wizardry. Abbotsford is most interesting, crowded with relics I should have loved to have dreamed over in solitude. But that might not be. The rooms were filled by a chattering crowd, harangued by a glib guide. I wondered if Scott would have liked to think of his home being so over-run by a horde of curious sight-seers.

Where Scott is Buried

WE drove from Abbotsford to Dryburgh where Scott is buried. As we were able to escape from the "Cookies" here we enjoyed the magnificent ruin doubly. Then we returned to Melrose and explored the ruins of the Abbey there. We could not follow Scott's advice, which I never believe he failed, as is asserted, to take himself, and view it by moonlight. But in that mellow, golden-gray evening light it was beautiful enough, beautiful and sad, with the little bluebells growing in its ruined courts and over its old graves. Michael Scott is reputed to be buried there, and there the heart of Robert Bruce was buried, and, doubtless, rests as quietly as though it had, according to his

wish, been laid in the soil of the Holy Land.

"There is some wonderful hand-carving still left in Melrose, and the little hand high up on one of the arches is as suggestive as it is beautiful. What fair lady's hand was chiselled there in lasting stone? One cannot but think it was wrought by a lover.

"On Wednesday we left for Inverness, but stopped off en route to visit Kirriemuir, the 'Thrums' of Barrie's stories.

In particular, I wanted to see the 'Den' where *Sentimental Tommy* and his cronies held their delightful revels. It is a lovely spot. One thing about it made me feel at home, its paths, which Barrie calls 'pink,' are the very red of our own island roads. I could have fancied that I was prowling in the woods around Lovers' Lane.

Like Inverness Best

OF all the places we have visited in Scotland thus far I like Inverness best. In itself it is only a small gray town but the surrounding scenery is magnificent.

"We drove out to Culloden the evening of our arrival and it is one of the drives that, for sheer pleasure, will always stand out in my memory. The road was exceedingly lovely and

we were fortunate enough to have a nice old driver who knew all the history and legend of everything, and was very willing to tell it in delightful broad Scotch.

"The next day we visited Tomnahurich, the famous cemetery of Inverness. It deserves its fame; I am sure it must be the most beautiful cemetery in the world. It is a large hill outside the city, rising in a perfect cone, and thickly covered with trees. The name is a Gaelic word meaning 'the hill of the fairies,' and surely it must once have been a spot meet for a fairy kingdom and the revels of Titania. Seen at eventide, against a sunset sky, it seems a veritable outpost of the Land of Old Romance.

"We returned by way of the Caledonian Canal to Fort William, and thence by train. The sunset effects on the mountains along our way were wonderful. If I were to live near mountains for any length of time I should learn to love them almost as much as I love the sea."

August 13, 1912.

LAST Monday we visited Roslin Chapel, a wonderful specimen of Gothic work in perfect preservation. This is the chapel of Scott's ballad, 'Fair Rosabelle':

'Seemed all on fire that chapel proud
Where Roslin's chiefs uncoffined lie.'

"Wednesday we left Edinburgh and went to Alloa to visit friends. Thursday we 'did' Dollar Glen. I had never heard of this place until Mr. M. of Alloa told us of it, yet it is one of the wildest, grandest spots we have seen in all Scotland. If Scott had touched it with his genius it would be as widely known as the Trosachs. Indeed, it is much like what I had imagined the Trosachs to be. Dollar Glen is like a deep gash cleft down

(CON. ON PAGE 32)



L. M. Montgomery

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